

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please delete the Abstract in its entirety and insert the following new Abstract:

Abstract of the Disclosure

A mesoporous silica has uniform mesopores and a periodic structure, which contains a Zr element in the form of a Si-O-Zr bond. The Zr content in the Si-O-Zr bond, represented by $[Zr/(Si + Zr)]$, is 0.05 to 20 mole %. The mesoporous silica is superior in alkali resistance and is suitably used as a separation membrane (e.g. a ceramic membrane) and a catalytic support for a solid-liquid system, in which an alkaline liquid may be used.